IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Pages 6 and 7, replace the paragraph starting on page 6 at line 18 and ending on page 7 at line 15 with the following new paragraph:

-- Referring to the drawings in particular, Figures 1, 2 and 3 show different views of the slot cover according to the present invention. Figure 4 shows a cross-section through the slot cover with a selector lever 8 connected to kinematics 17, which is in turn connected to a transmission 18. The kinematic 17 and transmission 18 are shown schematically. The selector lever 8 is movable in a first direction 19, and in a second direction 20. Figure 1 shows a bottom view of the slot cover. The slot cover comprises a support structure 5, which comprises a central plate 5.3 arranged in the middle of the support structure 5 and two supports 5.1 and 5.2 arranged to the side of the support structure 5. A generous opening 5.4 is provided in the central plate 5.3. Two deflecting elements are arranged at the outer ends of the support structure 5 and are formed by two broad deflecting rollers 3.1 and 3.2, at the ends of which two gears 3.3 and 3.4 as well as 3.5 and 3.6 are arranged. The broad deflecting rollers 3.1 and 3.2 are mounted rotatably at the ends of the respective lateral supports 5.1 and 5.2. Furthermore, four narrow deflecting rollers 4.1 through 4.4, which form a rectangle with one another with two deflection axes 16, are located in the central area of the supports 5.1 and 5.2. The narrow deflecting rollers 4.1 through 4.4 are also mounted rotatably in the lateral supports 5.1 and 5.2. The louver 2, which forms an endless band, is guided around the deflecting rollers, and part of this endless band consists of a broad band 2.1 and the other part of two narrow bands 2.2 and 2.3, respectively, which pass over with their ends into the ends of the broad band. An opening

is provided for the selector lever in the area of the broad band 2.1, and the two narrow bands 2.2 and 2.3 themselves form an opening through which a selector lever can be passed. The louver 2 can include an elastic portion 12, having elastic properties, at least in the circumferential direction of the closed loop, the elastic louver portion being provided over at least a part of a length of the louver.--.

Pages 9 and 10, replace the paragraph starting on page 9 at line 17 and ending on page 10 at line 5 with the following new paragraph:

-- Figure 7 shows a bottom view of a cover plate 6, under which the slot cover 1 according to the present invention is arranged. The selector lever 8 - fixed in a sideways pivoted position - is indicated by broken line here as well, in which case the slot cover 1 has also been displaced in relation to the cover plate 6. The displaceability of the slot cover 1 in relation to the cover plate 6 may be achieved, e.g., by the support structure 5 itself being fastened on the shifting device or on the slot cover 1 with a bracket ~~15~~, which allows a lateral movement of the slot cover. It would be possible, e.g., to clip the slot cover 1 with the axes of the broad deflecting rollers 3.1 and 3.2 in a clamp on the narrow sides, where the clamps are substantially narrower in their broad extension than the length of the broad deflecting rollers, so that the entire slot cover 1 can be moved on it from right to left.--.

Please cancel the paragraph on page 10 which was added by the amendment of

December 26, 2001 between lines 12 and 13.